

UNPUBLISHED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

No. 96-2177

MARIE ASSA'AD-FALTAS, a/k/a Dr. Faltas, MD,
MPH,

Plaintiff - Appellant,

versus

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA; CAROL NANCE, in her individual and official capacities; BOBBY GIST, in his individual capacity; DAVID SHERIDAN, in his individual capacity; PATRICK BARRESI, in his individual capacity; JUDY WEEKS, in her individual capacity; J. O'NEAL HUMPHRIES, in his individual capacity; LAWRENCE DARK, in his individual capacity; JOAN M. ALTEKRUSE, in her individual capacity; ERNEST ALTEKRUSE, in his individual capacity; RICHARD CRESWICK in his individual capacity; THE LAW FIRM OF NEXSEN, PRUET, JACOBS & POLLARD, LLP, in its corporate capacity; VICTORIA ESLINGER, in her individual capacity; SUSAN MCWILLIAMS, in her individual capacity; JOHN TRUSSELL, in his individual capacity; EDWARD TURBEVILLE, in his individual capacity,

Defendants - Appellees,

and

RANDALL CHASTAIN, in his individual capacity; THE STATE NEWSPAPER, in its corporate capacity; KATHERINE GRAY, individually and as agent of the State Newspaper; CLAUDIA SMITH BRINSON, individually and as agent of the State Newspaper; PATRICK BLANCHAT, individually and as agent of the State Newspaper; THOMAS MCLEAN,

individually and as agent of the State Newspaper; WILLIAM RHONE, individually and as agent of the State Newspaper; CHRIS RILEY; UNKNOWN NAMED DEFENDANTS,

Defendants.

No. 97-1272

MARIE ASSA'AD-FALTAS, a/k/a Dr. Faltas, MD,
MPH,

Plaintiff - Appellant,

versus

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA; CAROL NANCE, in her individual and official capacities; BOBBY GIST, in his individual capacity; DAVID SHERIDAN, in his individual capacity; PATRICK BARRESI, in his individual capacity; JUDY WEEKS, in her individual capacity; J. O'NEAL HUMPHRIES, in his individual capacity; LAWRENCE DARK, in his individual capacity; JOAN M. ALTEKRUSE, in her individual capacity; ERNEST ALTEKRUSE, in his individual capacity; RICHARD CRESWICK, in his individual capacity; THE LAW FIRM OF NEXSEN, PRUET, JACOBS & POLLARD, LLP, in its corporate capacity; VICTORIA ESLINGER, in her individual capacity; SUSAN MCWILLIAMS, in her individual capacity; JOHN TRUSSELL, in his individual capacity; EDWARD TURBEVILLE, in his individual capacity,

Defendants - Appellees,

and

RANDALL CHASTAIN, in his individual capacity;
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ity; KATHERINE GRAY, individually and as agent of the State Newspaper; CLAUDIA SMITH BRINSON, individually and as agent of the State Newspaper; PATRICK BLANCHAT, individually and as agent of the State Newspaper; THOMAS MCLEAN, individually and as agent of the State Newspaper; WILLIAM RHONE, individually and as agent of the State Newspaper; CHRIS RILEY; UNKNOWN NAMED DEFENDANTS,

Defendants.

Appeals from the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, at Columbia. Joseph F. Anderson, Jr.; Dennis W. Shedd, District Judges. (CA-95-1521-3-17)

Submitted: September 22, 1998

Decided: Occtober 6, 1998

Before HAMILTON, LUTTIG, and MOTZ, Circuit Judges.

Affirmed by unpublished per curiam opinion.

Marie Assa'ad-Faltas, Appellant Pro Se. Peter Robert Messitt, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF VIRGINIA, Richmond, Virginia; Susan Pedrick McWilliams, Victoria LaMonte Eslinger, Elizabethann Loadholt Felder, NEXSEN, PRUET, JACOBS & POLLARD, Columbia, South Carolina, for Appellees.

Unpublished opinions are not binding precedent in this circuit. See Local Rule 36(c).

PER CURIAM:

Dr. Marie Therese Assa'ad Faltas appeals the district court's orders dismissing her civil action for abuse of the discovery process, denying her motions to reconsider, and granting sanctions to the Defendants under Fed. R. Civ. P. 11. We have reviewed the record, the district court's opinions and orders, and all of the pleadings filed in this court and find no reversible error. Assa'ad Faltas's failure to return to her deposition without permission of the special master, combined with her refusal to cooperate with discovery throughout the proceedings, warranted dismissal of the action. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(d); Mutual Fed. Savs. & Loan Ass'n v. Richards & Assoc., 872 F.2d 88, 92 (4th Cir. 1989). Further, Assa'ad Faltas's motions for reconsideration were properly denied. See United States v. Williams, 674 F.2d 310, 313 (4th Cir. 1982). Finally, the district court did not abuse its discretion in awarding sanctions under Rule 11 based on Assa'ad Faltas's pursuit of untenable and patently meritless claims. See In re Kunstler, 914 F.2d 505, 518 (4th Cir. 1990). Accordingly, we affirm on the reasoning of the district court. See Assa'ad Faltas v. Attorney Gen., No. CA-95-1521-3-17 (D.S.C. July 23, 1996; Jan. 17, 1997). We dispense with oral argument because the facts and legal contentions are adequately presented in the materials before the court and argument would not significantly aid the decisional process.

AFFIRMED